

VSH Governing Body Meeting Minutes

July 16, 2008, 1:30 pm

Library, 4 South Building

Type of meeting: Oversight

Facilitator: Michael Hartman, Commissioner of Mental Health

Note taker: Denise McCarty

Governing Body Members: Beth Tanzman, Deputy Commissioner of Mental Health; Dr. William McMains; Ann Moore; Paul Dupre (Director of WCMH); Dr. Tom Simpatico

Attendees: Jessica Oski; Matt Viens, Patrick Kinner, Tommie Murray, David Mitchell

Discussed: Approval of Meeting Minutes

The June 18th meeting minutes were reviewed, three changes were suggested. William McMains motioned to approve the amended minutes. Ann Moore seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion to accept the amended minutes were approved unanimously.

NOTE: The current meeting agenda was amended to reflect that Attorney Matt Viens would discuss the status of the Regulation Governing the Board of the Vermont State Hospital (this document was handed out at a previous meeting) the regulation discussion was added after the Medical Director's Report.

Discussed: Medical Director's Report (Dr. Tom Simpatico)

Dr. Simpatico indicated that Dr. Linson was just hired through the Locum Tenen agency so that physician coverage would be plentiful over the next two months to cover summer vacations.

In June, TS disbanded the EPIRP Committee and their monthly meetings because VSH just hired an Alternatives to Restraint and Seclusion Coordinator to implement a Seclusion and Restraint Reduction Initiative using the SAMSHA grant which would be redundant of the work of the EPIRP Committee. TS and Tommie Murray(Quality Assurance Department) are looking at data to see what the causes are for both staff and patient injuries. The data is currently showing that there have been 112 injuries from January to June. The information they are working on will be available on a monthly basis. Tommie Murray said there are 6 initiatives going on at VSH which will hopefully drive down staff and patient injury. **AM requested that their be a presentation of the 6 initiatives at the next meeting.**

Information Systems – TS reported that there are two Information System demonstrations in July. On July 25th a Net Smart systems presentation will be demonstrated to the selection committee. On July 31st the CRIS system will be demonstrated to the selection committee. TS suspects a recommendation will be made by the selection committee after the presentations. (End Medical Director's Report).

Discussed: Regulation Governing the Board of the Vermont State Hospital with Attorney Matt Veins

Matt Viens reviewed the proposed Governance Regulation which had been circulated to the members at a previous meeting. The rule, if adopted, will formally establish the Governing Body as the Board of Directors for the Vermont State Hospital. The structure and functions of the Governing Body, as set forth in the proposed rule, come directly from federal regulations and the adoption of the regulation would give the system outlined therein the full effect of law. MV reported that he met with members of ICAR (Interagency Committee of Administrative Rules) to review the proposed rule. This is the first step in the formal rulemaking process. The proposed rule now goes to the Secretary of State's Office, where it will be scheduled for a public hearing and public comment period. It will then be reviewed by LCAR (the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules) before becoming final. If everything goes smoothly, the regulation will go into effect by December 2008.

Discussion: Patient Work Policy Draft 1.9

Patrick Kinner, Therapeutic and Recovery Services Director facilitated the review of the Patient Work Policy and written public comments that were received. The points of discussion were about the minimum wage and discussing different scenarios of where patients could work, what functions would they have, should they be able to work outside of VSH or just within the hospital. The Body members were uniformly clear that no patient should be paid less than minimum wage, which currently is the VSH practice. **WM requested a broader discussion about employment programs at VSH involving long term patients.** MH suggested removing the word "employment" throughout the policy. The Governing Body amended the policy but did not vote to accept the amended policy because Terry Rowe was not present at the meeting. **They recommended sending the amended policy back to the policy committee for now and reviewing the policy at a future Governing Body meeting when TR would attend.**

Discussion: Policy Development Protocol

Jessica Oski discussed the role of the Policy Committee and reviewed the VSH Policy Development Protocol that was drafted by the committee. Discussion followed. **MH suggested that VSH policies for public comment should have a clearly marked "button" on the DMH web page that allows for immediate access to these policies. As well that policies should be noted in the Bi-Weekly Update with the web address to view proposed policies.**

Discussion: Treatment Mall Presentation with Patrick Kinner, Therapeutic Recovery Services and Tommie Murray, Quality Assurance

Patrick Kinner and Tommie Murray gave an overview of the new Treatment Mall (see handout) to the Governing Body members. Discussion followed. Items mentioned that are needed before the treatment mall opens to the patients is a more predictable staffing level so that the treatment mall is sufficiently staffed as well as the units. BT asked what the medical benchmarks are that determine who goes to the treatment mall? TS requested that the clinical teams need guidelines/criteria so that they can adequately refer patients to the treatment mall. The new treatment mall is suppose to open in late August, early September. There will be open houses with light refreshments where staff and visitors can take a tour of the new space some time in mid to late August.

Discussion: Request for Proposal (RFP) Presentation with David Mitchell, Education and Training Director

David gave a status report on an RFP that was sent out for violence and aggression management training. We currently use the NAPPI training model but this will help determine if we should keep using NAPPI or try something else. Seven proposals were received and David is following up on four of them.

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm. The next meeting will be on August 20th at 1:30 pm in the Nursing Classroom.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise McCarty
Minute Taker

